

TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

FORTIETH CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.

On motion of Mr. Sherman the rules were modified so as to allow the Committee on Finance to have the privilege of the floor during the consideration of measures affecting the revenue.

A communication was laid before the Senate by Mr. St. John, Secretary of War, in compliance with a resolution of April 9, 1867, transmitting a list of volunteer officers in the military service, with rank and present duty. Referred to the Military Committee.

The bill for the exemption of cotton from taxation came up.

The House having non-concurred in the Senate amendment, Mr. Sherman, from the Committee on Finance, moved that the Senate substitute the following amendment:

Provided that raw cotton imported from foreign countries on and after July 1, 1868, shall be exempt from duty.

The motion was laid aside by consent of the Senate.

Mr. Chandler presented a petition from citizens of Texas, praying Congress not to ratify appointments of non-residents of that state.

Mr. Trumbull presented a memorial from Thomas A. Williams, Stephen R. Drake, and Jno. D. Williams, who ask to be allowed to withdraw from the cause forth various reasons why the present mode of dealing with the Indians is objectionable, and pray Congress to incorporate these into the bill.

Mr. Bingham—It is a fact that the Indians deal with nothing else than rhetoric.

Mr. Bingham (a little more railed)—It is a fact that treason bated down the government of Santa Carolina.

Mr. Eldridge—Well, supposing it is?

Mr. Bingham—Having thus basted down—

Mr. Eldridge (nearly out of patience)—Well, none of your rhetoric. Answer my question.

Mr. Bingham—I do answer it, sir, and I answer it in the words of James Madison, the maker of your Constitution.

Mr. Eldridge (patiently exhausted) I resume the floor. [Laughter.] The Senate has not yet answered my question.

Mr. Bingham—I dare, sir, if you will let me. [Laughter.]

Mr. Eldridge will give the gentleman opportunity to answer it now; I will give him one minute.

Mr. Bingham—One minute is rather short.

Mr. Eldridge—It is rather short but I want to get rid of the rhetoric. [Laugh-

ter.]

Mr. Bingham—Shakespeare gave a man forty minutes to girdle the earth. [Laugh-

ter.]

Mr. Eldridge—Yes, but I do not wish to gird the world to get an answer. [Laughter.]

Mr. Bingham—The man who was called the father of the Constitution, James Madison, has never uttered a single question.

He knew as much as both of us, and he declared, touching this very subject, that he would not be surrendered to the custody of the law.

Mr. Bingham—I leg leave to say that he did, and I will prosit to-morrow.

Mr. Eldridge (smiling)—To-mor-

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Mr. Bingham (spring up)—Yes, to-mor-

row, and I challenge the gentleman.

Mr. Eldridge—Oh, I care nothing about the gentleman's challenge, but will he answer?

Mr. Bingham—I know all that the gentleman knows on that question, and what I know besides. [General laughter.]

This was the last hostile shot, and the battle ended.

Mr. Eldridge continued his argument directly against the bill, and Mr. Bingham changed his position to another part of the hall.

Mr. Bingham defended the constitutionality of the bill, and the propriety of all the reconstruction measures passed by Congress.

Mr. Bingham—The bill has been agreed to, and I will speak to-morrow.

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